

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/029,797

Examiner

Linda Krisciunas

Applicant(s)

WHITE ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to After Final filed August 13, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4,8-10,14,15 and 24-30.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 08232006.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. The Examiner requests the proposed amendments filed by the applicant on August 13, 2006 be replaced by the Examiner's Amendments below, per agreement with the applicant in the Interview on August 25, 2006.

The claims below represent all the present claims, in their entirety, in the current application.

Examiner Amended Claims

1. (Amended) A method for managing groups responsible for pit activities, the method comprising the steps of:

- populating database fields of a web application by an engineering group with data that specifies details of pits, wherein the population is conducted manually and automatically from both legacy Computer Automated Design systems and legacy visual basic systems;
- providing the technician manager group with limited access to the web application a first time,
- receiving from the technician manager via the web application during the first time a first command into the web application that instructs the pit contractor group to open a pit, wherein the technician management group has read access to all data fields in the database related to the first command;
- providing the pit contractor group with limited access to the web application a first time,
- executing the first command by opening the pit, wherein the command is issued from the technician manager to the pit contractor group via the web application and providing the pit contractor group with read access to all of the data fields required to successfully execute the first command to open the pit during the first time;
- providing the pit contractor group with limited access to the web application a second time,
- receiving a response into the web application from the pit contractor that the first command has been completed by opening the pit, wherein the response includes additional data related to the completion of the first command wherein the additional data comprises the location of the pit and details regarding how the pit was opened;
- providing the technician manager group with limited access to the web application a second time,
- receiving from the technician manager during the second time a second command that instructs the technician group to perform a cable task within the pits of the first command into the web application wherein the technician

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manager group has read access to all data fields in the database related to the second command;

providing the technician group with limited access to the web application a first time,

receiving by the technician group via the web application during the first time the second command from the technician manager group providing the technician group with read only access to the data fields required to successfully execute the second command,

executing the second command by performing the cable task within the pit once it is opened by the pit contractor,

providing the technician group with limited access to the web application a second time,

receiving a response from the technician group via the web application during the second time that the second command has been completed, wherein the response includes additional data related to the completion of the second command that comprises the number of hours required to complete the cable task within the pit and wherein the write access to respond is via the technician manager group;

providing the technician manager group with limited access to the web application a third time,

receiving from the technician group via the web application during the third time a third command to close the pit where the cable task has been completed wherein the technician manager group has read access to all data fields in the database related to the third command;

providing the pit contractor group with limited access to the web application a third time,

receiving by the pit contractor group via the web application during the third time the third command from the technician manager group and providing the pit contractor group with read access to all of the data fields required to successfully execute the third command,

executing the third command by closing the pit where the cable task has been completed;

and providing the pit contractor group with limited access to the web application a fourth time,

receiving from the pit contractor group via the web application during the fourth time that the third command has been completed, wherein the response includes additional data related to the completion of the third command including where the pit was closed and details regarding how the pit was closed; wherein further responses of the pit contractor and technician groups also includes high priority e-mail.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 , wherein the web application is accessed through a global internet and a local intranet.

3. Cancelled

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4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the steps must occur in chronological order.

5-7. Cancelled

8. (Currently Amended) A method for managing groups responsible for pit activities, the method comprising:

- populating the fields of a database by an engineering group with data that specifies details of a pit, wherein the population is conducted manually and automatically from both legacy Computer Automated Design systems and legacy visual basic systems;

- providing a technician manager group with limited write access to the web application a first time;

- receiving first information from the technician manager group during the first time into the web application regarding opening the pit by the pit contractor group;

- executing opening the pit;

- providing the pit contractor group with access to the web application during a first time, a step of receiving by the pit contractor during the first time the first information from the technician manager group via the web application;

- providing the pit contractor group with limited write access to the web application a second time,

- receiving a second information from the pit contractor during the second time into the web application regarding where and how the pit was opened by the pit contractor;

- providing the technician manager group with access to the web application a second time,

- receiving by the technician manager group during the second time the second information and providing limited write access to the technician manager group

- receiving a third information from the technician manager group during the second time into the web application regarding performing a cable related task within the pit;

- executing the cable related task;

- providing the technician group with access to the web application a first time,

- receiving by the technician group during the first time via the web application the third information from the technician manager group;

- providing the technician group with access to the web application via the technician manager group during a second time,

- receiving a fourth information from the technician group via during second time into the web application regarding completion of the cable related task within the pit;

- providing the technician manager group with access to the web application a third time,

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receiving by the technician manager via the web application during the third time the fourth information and providing limited write access to place a fifth information into the web application regarding closing the pit by the pit contractor;
executing closing the pit;
providing the pit contractor group with access to the web application a third time,
receiving by the pit contractor group via the web application during the third time the fifth information from the technician manager group; and
providing the pit contractor group with limited write access to the web application a fourth time,
receiving from the pit contractor during the fourth time a sixth information into the web application regarding where and how the pit was closed by the pit contractor.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the web application must be accessed through a global internet.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the web application must be accessed through a security firewall between the global internet and the web application.

11-13. Cancelled

14. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the first, third, and fifth information are commands.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the second information responds to the first information, the fourth information responds to the third information, and the sixth information responds to the fifth information.

16-23 Cancelled.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a plurality of groups responsible for pit activities, the method comprising the steps of:

creating a central body of information by an engineering group with data that specifies details of a pit, wherein the population is conducted manually and automatically from both legacy Computer Automated Design systems and legacy visual basic systems:

providing a technician manager group of the plurality of groups with limited write access to a central body of information;

receiving information into the central body of information in real time regarding opening a pit and performing a cable task within the pit once the pit is opened;

providing a pit contractor group of the plurality of groups with unlimited read access to the central body of information a first time;

receiving by the pit contractor during the first time information from the technician manager group in real time from the central body of information to be instructed regarding opening the pit;

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- executing the task of opening the pit;
- providing the pit contractor group of the plurality of groups with limited write access to the central body of information during a second time;
- receiving information from the pit contractor during the second time into the central body of information in real time regarding completion of opening the pit;
- providing a technician group of the plurality of groups with unlimited read access to the central body of information during a first time;
- receiving by the technician group during the first time information from the technician manager group in real time from the central body of information regarding performing the cable task within the pit;
- providing the technician group with limited and indirect access through the first group to the central body of information to place information into the central body of information during a second time;
- receiving information from the technician group during the second time into the central body of information in real time regarding completion of the cable task;
- executing the cable task;
- providing a fourth group of the plurality of groups with limited write access to the central body of information a first time;
- receiving information into the central body in real time from the fourth group during the first time;
- providing the pit contractor group of the plurality of groups with unlimited read access to the central body of information during a third time;
- receiving by the pit contractor group during the third time via the central body of information that information from the fourth group of the plurality of groups in real time; and
- providing the pit contractor group of the plurality of groups with limited write access to the central body of information a fourth time;
- receiving information from the pit contractor group during the fourth time into the central body of information in real time, where the body of information received during the fourth time comprises at least, the time a pit was opened, the time the pit was closed, the location of the pit, reports that the pit is unsafe, reports about disputes arising from the pit's existence, the time period from a request to open a pit to its opening and the time from a request to close a pit to its closing.
- executing closing of the pit.

25. (Amended) A method for managing a plurality of internal and external groups responsible for pit activities, the method comprising the steps of:

- providing the plurality of internal groups comprising a technician manager group with a first access to a central body of information a first time;
- receiving from the technician manager group during the first time a first information regarding opening of a pit into the central body of information,

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wherein the first access comprises unlimited read access and limited write access;

executing the step of opening the pit;

providing the plurality of external groups comprising a pit contractor with a second access to the central body of information;

receiving by the pit contractor the first information from the central body of information;

receiving from the pit contractor a second information regarding completion of closing the pit into the central body of information, wherein the second access comprises unlimited read access and limited write access; and

providing the plurality of internal groups comprising the technician manager group with the first access to the central body of information a second time;

receiving by the technician manager group the second information from the central body of information during the second time; and

executing the closing of the pit.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the first access is provided through an intranet.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the second access is provided through a global internet.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the first information is a command

directed to one or more of the plurality of external groups.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the second information responds to the first information.

30. (Original) The method of 29, wherein the central body of information is a computer network application designed to be accessed through a global internet.

Reasons for Allowance

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 8-10, 14-15 and 24-30 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The closest prior art is Chaar et al (US 5,960,404) and Olapurath et al (US 6,678,714). Chaar et al (US 5,960,404) teaches providing groups access to a web application only. It does not teach the specific executable tasks of opening a

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pit, performing a cable task and closing a pit. Chaar teaches providing a first group with access to a web application, to place a first command into the web application (See Figure 1, where the source agent (110) submits a task request (140) which is equivalent to placing a command into the application and column 3, lines 63-65: "A workflow abstraction called Source that represents a workflow or service requestor that generates a sequence of service requests as part of a process execution."); providing a second group with access to the web application, to receive the first command from the first group (See Figure 1, where the performer agent (130) receives the task request (140) and column 4, lines 17-19: "A continuously available Network that allows Source Agents and Performer Agents to communicate with each other."); providing the second group with access to the web application, to respond that the first command has been completed into the web application (See Figure 1, where the performer agent (130) sends a task response (150) and column 3, lines 65-67: "A workflow abstraction called Performer that represents a service provider (human, application, or workflow server) that provides services in response to service requests generated by Sources."); providing the first group with access to the web application, to place a second command into the web application (See Figure 1, where the source agent (110) submits a task request (140) which is equivalent to placing a command into the application); providing a third group with access to the web application, to receive the second command from the first group (See Figure 1, where the performer agent (130) receives the task request (140)); providing the third group with access to the web application, to respond

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that the second command has been completed into the web application (See Figure 1, where the performer agent (130) sends a task response (150)); providing the first group with access to the web application, to place a third command into the web application (See Figure 1, where the source agent (110) submits a task request (140) which is equivalent to placing a command into the application and the process is iterative, so many commands are placed); providing the second group with access to the web application, to receive the third command from the first group (See Figure 1, where the performer agent (130) receives the task request (140)); providing the second group with access to the web application, to respond that the third command has been completed into the web application (See Figure 1, where the performer agent (130) sends a task response (150)).

In addition, Olapurath et al (US 6,678,714) teaches task order. Olapurath teaches that it is know that the steps must occur in chronological order (column 3, lines 48-50: "In other words a task definer 1030 can define the order in which tasks in a task group are to be executed.").

The cited prior art fails to teach the combination of the limitations and functionality of claims 1, 2, 4, 8-10, 14-15 and 24-30, more specifically the combination of populating databases fields with pit information that provides technician manager groups, technician groups and pit contractor groups access to the application and executes the commands of opening a pit, performing a cable task and closing the pits while two or more of these specific groups interact

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using the application. It is for these reasons that the presented claims are allowable over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

The abstract was noted in the Final office action filed on June 14, 2006 as not meeting the Abstract requirements, specifically relating to the language. The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc. Additionally, the abstract should not contain claim language. Proper correction is required

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Linda Krisciunas whose telephone number is 571-272-6931. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 6:30 am to 3:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on 571-272-6729. The fax

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phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LMK

LMK
September 5, 2006

Romain Janty
Primary Examiner
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